

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – June 1, 2010**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Eric Ost, Suzann Owen

II. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of April business meeting minutes, a motion was made by Suzann Owen to accept the minutes, and seconded by Eric Ost. All approved the motion. No corrections/additions.

III. Public Comment and Reports – None

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecommunication Council Members:

Suzann commented that the FCC still does not seem to be dealing with any video service issues, just primarily network neutrality. There does seem to be industry pressure on some members of congress to get network neutrality passed, but no vote yet.

2. City ITS Department – Rick Dietz

- Announced the BDU Advisory meeting. There would be discussion about the cities infrastructure, and reports on E-health.
- Discussion about the franchise fees. Rick report that they have history of franchise fees dating back to 2005. The table that Suzann had put together of history from 2007 to present was shown. There has been an increase but seasonal dips can be seen due to being a college town. but there is a relative increase each year. Carl commented that with the previous arrangements you were able to see the numbers that generated the income, where now you only see the income number.
- A conversation was had with Jim Tackett from AT&T of Indiana. They've expressed some willingness to be more flexible in terms of the inter-connect side of PEG. AT&T's original proposal to the city was for the city to pay the bill for all the transition equipment. Now they would like to be more flexible with that. They still have not addressed other areas that are problematic, but they do seem to be more motivated. Eric asked what type of flexibility did they express. Rick answered that they were no longer interested in pursuing the notion that the city should have to carry the burden of transporting the signal. Cities would not have to purchase translation equipment, and would not have to house AT&T's equipment to get the signal. Suzann asked about a timeline for when PEG channels might be available on the U-verse system locally, but there was no timeline in place as of yet, and agreement of terms must be reached first. An inquiry was made about whether there was any continuous effort on the part of the city to encourage them to comply with the state laws. This at least discussion going on and it is being worked on. Carl mentioned that the major issues with the whole situation seemed to be: Delivery of signal to AT&T, the way AT&T wants to organize the signal, delivery on their system, quality of the signal they deliver of PEG back to the local customers, emergency overrides.
- Google Fiber for Communities Incentive Update
It was reported by Rick that they have heard nothing. Over 1100 communities sent in requests. They have not announced how many they will grant, but it will be at least one. We will know something by the end of the year.
- Issues with the Smithville Project
There is not a problem with the infrastructure. They have received substantial government funding. The problem seems to be that they do not believe that they have to enter into a written agreement with the city of Bloomington for the PEG channels. We could possibly not have a written agreement but again we may face similar issues that we have with other video service providers.
- Carl suggested that something the city may need to consider is a plan on how to address these types of legality issues when dealing with videos service providers? Otherwise how can subscribers have their issues dealt with?

3. CATS – Martin O'Neil, Substituting for Michael White

- Monthly programming
- Numbers are up!

- Carl asked if there was a way to announce to the local viewer when the local new production would occur, like time and channel. It was something that Mr. O'Neil said he would look into doing.

4. WTIU – Phil Meyer

- Phil has also had a conversation with Mr. Tackett at AT&T of Indiana about carrying our main service in high definition on U-verse. At this point they are down converting to standard definition, but we did not get a response to our request. Suzann asked if there is any legal requirement for providers to carry programs in high definition. Phil report no. Satellite providers have identified WFYI as the primary PBS station in Indianapolis market. AT&T could make a case there is president in the satellite provider realm. It's all up to negotiation anymore.
- Suzanne asked if WTIU was getting any public questions about why PEG is not available on U-verse. Phil reported that he only gotten a handful since the conversion took place.
- Eric inquired about the recent ruling on the must carry. Phil commented that it was a new bill updating the satellite home viewer act. In essence, renewing it for the digital world.
- Carl asked since they were discussing things with video service providers, if WTIU legal people were also talking to the legislators? Phil reported that no legal counsel is involved, since these are just informal conversations.
- Programs on TIU World were mentioned.
- They are also installing a server mapping tool. It will allow the server to identify programs, down convert them, and put them on the multi-task channel.
- FYI- Ann Shay is leaving. We are in the process of hiring a new, News Reel Chief. Suzann asked how this will affect the news and public affairs programming. Phil reported that it will be more across platform for awhile till a replacement is found.

V. Information and Comment from Video Service Provider – No Report

Suzann commented that she had dealt with a local Comcast customer that has bundled services whose internet and telephone were very unreliable. They finally lost telephone service completely. When they called to get someone to come and fix the problem, it was going to be a week before they could get a service call.

VI. Old Business

Report to City Council – None

EAS – Investigating a method that National Weather Service can assist us in with local emergencies and turning them into the type of signal that both local media and cable would carry as an override.

PEG Channels- July 6th we will be hearing from the city on that strategic plan. It is the cities intention to input the information from the meeting on July 6th in as feedback into the video strategies. At the August meeting we will hold a discussion about the Telecommunications Council proposed charter.

VII. New Business

- It was requested that Rick Dietz try to get a report from the IURC. The last report on hand was from March, which was given out in May.
- **Lennon Beasley – Community Producer at CATS**
- Producer of the month for April & May
- Produced: 18 Bowling Practice shows, 16 Live Drum shows, 22 Lennon Beasley Drum shows, 36 Percussion studio programs, 15 Rock around the Clock, 13 Singing Studio programs, 20 Music Town
- Created a new program called "Romance Avenue"
- In 2010, he has already produced 873 programs, 143 of those were in the months of April & May.
- Made a DVD of types of programs. It will be shown after the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

July 6th, 2010

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.